

REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement

The Office restricts the currently claims into eight (8) restriction groups and requires multiple species elections that differ among groups.

Group Election

Applicants hereby elect Group I which encompasses claims 1-16 insofar as they are directed to a method of generating dopaminergic neurons, wherein a pathway component is inhibited by gene knockout of the nucleic acid encoding said component.

Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement and suggest that Groups I-V should be rejoined. Each of these five restriction groups are drawn to methods of generating dopaminergic neurons, wherein a pathway component is inhibited. The difference among these groups is the technique used to inhibit the pathway component. Specifically, Group I requires that the pathway component is inhibited using a gene knockout; Group II requires that the pathway component is inhibited using siRNA; Group III requires that the pathway component is inhibited by overexpression of an antisense oligonucleotide; Group IV requires that the pathway component is inhibited using an antibody directed against that component; and Group V requires that the pathway component is inhibited by overexpressing a dominant negative version of the pathway component. Furthermore, Applicants also note that the Examiner has identified the same class and subclass search for each group; class 435; subclass 91.1.

In view of the similarities of the claimed methods encompassed by Restriction Groups I-V, and the fact that each of the groups requires searching the same class and subclass, Applicants respectfully submit that rejoining Groups I-V for searching and examination will not place an undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, rejoinder is respectfully requested.

Species Election

The Office requires a species election related to the specific cell fate-inducing polypeptides. Applicants hereby elect PTX-3 for search and examination.

The Office requires a species election related to the specific cell type. Applicants hereby elect human cells for search and examination.

The Office requires a species election related to the specific pathways and pathway components. Applicants hereby elect Smad 4 for search and examination.

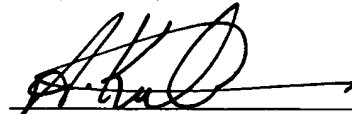
CONCLUSION

Following this Response, claims 1-16 are pending and elected for examination and claims 17-46 are withdrawn.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful to expedite allowance of this case, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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